

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

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SUBJECT: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL JANUARY 20: HIGHLIGHTS

REFS: (A) EC BRUSSELS 521, (B) EC BRUSSELS 533

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL WHICH
MET IN BRUSSELS ON JANUARY 20: APPROVED A NEGOTIATING MANDATE
FOR EXPANDING THE PRESENT PREFERENTIAL TRADE ARRANGEMENT WITH
PORTUGAL; AUTHORIZED UP TO 50 MILLION UNITS OF ACCOUNT IN
EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK FUNDS FOR YUGOSLAVIA FOR THE CONSTRUC-
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TION OF A TRANS-YUGOSLAV HIGHWAY; APPROVED A MANDATE FOR

NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE MASHRAQ COUNTRIES; RECEIVED AN INITIAL REPORT ON THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED MAGHREB NEGOTIATIONS; WAS UNABLE TO AGREE ON A COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION TO THE INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND; AND BRIEFLY DISCUSSED THE COMMUNITY'S RELATIONS WITH GREECE AND TURKEY. THIS MESSAGE DETAILS THE RESULTS OF THE COUNCIL. (THE MINISTERS' DISCUSSIONS REGARDING SPAIN, CIEC, AND RELATIONS WITH CANADA ARE REPORTED SEPTELS.) END SUMMARY.

2. PORTUGAL: THE COUNCIL APPROVED A NEGOTIATING MANDATE FOR THE COMMISSION TO BEGIN DISCUSSIONS WITH PORTUGAL UNDER THE EVOLUTIVE CLAUSE OF THE 1973 FREE TRADE AGREEMENT. THE GERMANS AGREED TO IMPROVEMENTS IN THE RULES REGARDING SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS TO PORTUGUESE WORKERS IN THE COMMUNITY.

3. YUGOSLAVIA: THE MINISTERS APPROVED GRANTING YUGOSLAVIA ACCESS, ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS, TO FUNDS FROM THE EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK. THE YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT IS TO BE INFORMED THAT, IN ADDITION TO THIS DECISION IN PRINCIPLE, THE COUNCIL WILL NOTIFY THE GOVERNORS OF THE EIB OF ITS WILLINGNESS TO SEE UP TO 50 MILLION UNITS OF ACCOUNT LOANED TO YUGOSLAVIA, AT COMMERCIAL RATES, TO BUILD A HIGHWAY ACROSS YUGOSLAVIA FROM THE ITALIAN BORDER TO THE GREEK BORDER.

4. MEDITERRANEAN: NEARLY ONE YEAR FROM THE DATE WHEN THE FOREIGN MINISTERS FIRST TOOK UP THE QUESTION, THE COUNCIL APPROVED WITHOUT DISCUSSION A MANDATE FOR THE COMMISSION TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO AGREEMENTS WITH THE MASHRAQ COUNTRIES. TALKS ARE DUE TO OPEN IN BRUSSELS WITH EGYPT ON JANUARY 28, WITH JORDAN FEBRUARY 2-3 AND WITH SYRIA FEBRUARY 4-5. DISCUSSIONS WITH LEBANON WILL WAIT UNTIL THE POLITICAL SITUATION THERE CLARIFIES. (SEE EC BRUSSELS 533).

5. EC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONER CHEYSSON REPORTED ON THE RESULTS OF THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE MAGHREB COUNTRIES. THE AGREEMENTS THEMSELVES WILL BE PRESENTED FOR COUNCIL APPROVAL ON FEBRUARY 9 AND 10.

6. INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT: THE FRENCH DELEGATION REFUSED TO LIFT ITS RESERVATION CONCERNING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION TO THE IFAD. FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES CONTINUED TO INSIST ON A GENERAL REVIEW OF THE EC'S AID COMMITMENTS AND CAPACITY AS A PRECONDITION FOR FRENCH AGREEMENT TO A COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION. THE IFAD-FILE IS TO BE SENT BACK TO THE EC COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION AND WILL COME UP AGAIN AT THE NEXT FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL ON FEBRUARY 9 AND 10. AS FOR THE JANUARY 28 IFAD MEETING IN ROME, HOQUET IN DG VIII (DEVELOP-

MENT) TELLS US THE EC WILL BE REPRESENTED AS BEFORE (COMMISSION AND MEMBER STATES) AND THAT THIS COUNCIL'S INABILITY TO TAKE A DECISION DOES NOT PRECLUDE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION EVENTUALLY.

7. GREENCE AND TURKEY: THE MINISTERS HELD A BRIEF DISCUSSION ON RELATIONS WITH GREECE AND TURKEY. NO DATE WAS FIXED FOR THE NEXT MEETING OF THE EC-TURKISH ASSOCIATION COUNCIL BUT THE MINISTERS URGED THAT GOVERNMENTS MOVE FORWARD QUICKLY SO AS TO PERMIT THE CONVENING OF ASSOCIATION COUNCILS WITH BOTH GREECE AND TURKEY DURING THE LUXEMBOURG PRESIDENCY.

8. WORK PROGRAM: COUNCIL PRESIDENT THORN DETAILED A PROGRAM OF WORK PROJECTED FOR THE LUXEMBOURG PRESIDENCY. (THE FULL TEXT OF THORN'S STATEMENT IS BEING SENT UNDER COVER OF AN AIRGRAM TO THE DEPARTMENT AND TO EMBASSY LUXEMBOURG.) THORN SAID THREE MAJOR TOPICS WILL DOMINATE COMMUNITY DISCUSSIONS DURING THE COMING SIX MONTHS, AND WILL ALSO APPEAR ON THE AGENDA FOR THE SPRING EUROPEAN COUNCIL. THESE ARE THE CIEC, THE IREPARAT OF CONVENTION COVERING DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN IN THE WAKE OF THE TINDEMANS REPORT. WE UNDERSTAND THERE WAS LITTLE DISCUSSION OF THORN'S STATEMENT.

9. THE MINISTERS ALSO REVIEWED THE STATE OF WORK IN EACH OF THE COUNCIL SESSIONS ATTENDED BY OTHER MINISTERS. THEY EXPRESSED PARTICULAR DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THE RESEARCH COUNCIL HELD ON DECEMBER 15 WAS UNABLE TO REACH A DECISION ON THE SITING OF THE JET. THORN URGED HIS COLLEAGUES TO HAVE THEIR GOVERNMENTS MODIFY THEIR POSITIONS SO THAT A DECISION COULD BE REACHED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

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10. EUROPEAN COUNCIL DATE: THE MINISTERS SPENT SOME CONSIDERABLE TIME JUGGLING THE DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL. APRIL 1 AND 2 EMERGED AS THE MOST LIKELY DATES ALTHOUGH NO FORMAL DECISION WAS TAKEN.

11. APPOINTMENT OF NEW JUDGE TO THE EUROPEAN COURT OF JUSTICE: THE FOREIGN MINISTERS, MEETING AS "REPRESENTATIVES OF MEMBER STATE GOVERNMENTS," APPROVED THE APPOINTMENT OF PROFESSOR FRANCESCO CAPOTORTI TO THE EC COURT OF JUSTICE TO REPLACE JUDGE MONACO. CAPOTORTI'S TERM IS TO LAST UNTIL OCTOBER 7, 1976, ALTHOUGH IT IS EXPECTED THAT HE WILL BE APPOINTED TO A SECOND TERM AT THAT TIME. (BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON PROFESSOR CAPOTORTI WILL BE SUBMITTED BY AIRGRAM.)

12. MISCELLANEOUS: WITHOUT DISCUSSION THE COUNCIL AUTHORIZED

THE COMMISSION TO PARTICIPATE IN NEGOTIATIONS ON A CONVENTION
TO PROTECT THE RHINE FROM CHEMICAL POLLUTION. IN ADDITION,
THE COUNCIL AUTHORIZED THE COMMISSION TO OPEN NEGOTIATIONS
WITH INDIA AND BANGLADESH AIMED AT CONCLUDING NEW ACCORDS
REGULATING THE JUTE TRADE.GREENWALD

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